Firing on LoC after ceasefire declaration

1592. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firing incidents which took place on the LoC since the ceasefire declared in November, 2003;

(b) which are the places where the firing took place; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been four incidents of firing along the Line of Control (LoC) since the ceasefire was declared in November, 2003.

(b) The firing took place twice in the Rajouri Sector and once each in Palanwala and Poonch Sector.

(c) Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and strong protest has been lodged about these incidents. The Pakistan DGMO however denied complicity of Pakistani troops but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire.

Sanctioning of Defence land for Metro Rail project in Bangalore

1593. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Government of Karnataka for sanctioning 102 acres of Defence land in Bangalore for the Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government;

(c) when are the final orders expected to be issued to hand over the land;

(d) whether there are any formalities to be observed by the State Government; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that there is no misutilisation of Defence land for commercial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government of Karnataka has requested for transfer of 102.287 acres of Defence land in Bangalore for Metro Rail Project.

(b) to (d) The detailed proposal from the State Government is awaited, thereafter a decision would be possible.

(e) Once the land is transferred, the utilization of the same will be the responsibility of the State Government.

Losses to Air Force due to Tsunami

1594. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Tsunami waves have damaged and caused losses to the Air Force;

(b) if so, what was the total damage caused to Air Force base and total losses suffered by Air Force men;

(c) what steps are being considered to repair these damages; and

(d) what was the compensation paid to those Air Force men who lost their lives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of damage and the total estimated loss suffered by the Indian Air Force are as follows:—

(i) Damage to the buildings, electricity and water supply-Rs. 135 crores (preliminary estimate).

(ii) Loss of manpower:

Officers: 4 dead and 2 declared missing.

Airmen: 3 dead and 2 declared missing.

Civilian Personnel: 30 dead and 73 declared missing.

(c) Immediate necessary works have already been commenced to repair the damages especially to the runway, shelters, electricity and water supply on a fast track basis.